

ASSESSMENT OF MODAL SHIFT AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARIKINA CITY BIKEWAYS

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Abstract: Transport-related problems include traffic congestion, air pollution, and accidents. A new approach to these problems is the promotion of environmentally sustainable transport (EST). EST policies and measures include the use of alternative fuels, promotion of use of public transport and the promotion of non-motorized transport such as walking and use of bicycles (cycling). One of the key cities in Metro Manila, Marikina City, was recently hailed as the “Philippines’ Bicycle Friendly City” as it continues to promote the use of bicycles as a mode transport. This study aims to present a report on Marikina City’s achievement and implementation of the Marikina City Bikeways Project. It also deals with identifying the problems or barriers encountered in the implementation of the Marikina City Bikeways Project and estimate shift from motorized transport to non-motorized transport. Identification of the barriers and barrier removal measures are obtained from secondary data. Prominent results identify the presence of policy-related, culture-related and information awareness-related barriers. However, due to the unwavering political support of the City Government of Marikina, barriers are thus mitigated. Significant institutions are also identified in their respective contributions to pursue the implementation of the Marikina City Bikeways. With regards to the assessment of progress of modal shift, a household interview survey (HIS) was conducted in all of the barangays of Marikina City. The estimated share of cycling increased from 2% in 1996 to 36% in 2007. Economic benefits, faster travel and improved mobility thru the presence of bikeways are the major factors affecting the increase. On the other hand, the present road conditions and safety issues are identified as reasons why people do not use bicycles as a major mode of transport. Results of the study can contribute to the possible replication of this project to other urban areas not only in Metro Manila but throughout the Philippines as well.

Key Words: Bikeways, non-motorized transport, modal shift, Marikina City